

## CHAPTEE

### XXVII. 1813.

Napoleon's second visit to Dresden — Battle of Bautzen — The Congress at Prague — Napoleon ill advised — Battle of Vittoria — General Moreau — Rupture of the conferences at Prague — Defection of Jomini — Battles of Dresden and Leipsic — Account of the death of Duroc — An interrupted conversation resumed a year after — Particulars respecting Poniatowski — His extraordinary courage and death — His monument at Leipsic and tomb in the cathedral of Warsaw.

ON the 2d of May Napoleon won the battle of Lutzen. A week after he was at Dresden, not as on his departure for the Russian campaign, like the Sovereign of the West surrounded by his mighty vassals : he was now in the capital of the only one of the monarchs of his creation who remained faithful to the French cause, and whose good faith eventually cost him half his dominions. The Emperor staid only ten days in Dresden, and then went in pursuit of the Russian army, which he came up with on the 19th, at Bautzen. This battle, which was followed on the two succeeding days by the battles of Wurtchen and Ochkirchen, may be said to have lasted three days — a sufficient proof that it was obstinately disputed. It ended in favor of Napoleon, but he and France paid dearly for it: while General Kirschner and Duroc were talking together the former was killed by a cannon-ball, which mortally wounded the latter in the abdomen.

The moment had now arrived for Austria to prove whether or not she intended entirely to desert the cause of Napoleon.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is a running attack in *Errews* (tome ii. pp. 289-325) on all this part of the Memoirs, "but the best account of the negotiations between France, Austria, and the Allies will be found in *Metternich*, vol. i. pp. 171-245. Metternich, with good reason, prides himself on the skill with which he gained from Napoleon the exact time, twenty days, necessary for the concentration of the Austrian armies ; see especially pp. 194, 195. Whether the negotiations were consistent with good faith on the part of Austria is another matter ; but one thing seems clear — the Austrian marriage ruined Napoleon. He found it impossible to believe that the monarch who had given him Ms